

## Orthoptic Department - Stroke Patient Information Visual Field Defect

### **What is a Visual Field Defect?**

A visual field defect is when part of an object may be missing; this can vary from a very small area to a larger section missing.

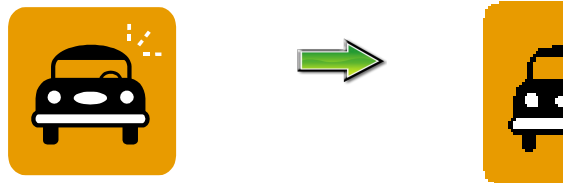
When the defect is due to stroke the patient (most commonly) will experience seeing half of everything. This is termed a Homonymous Hemianopia.

### **Homonymous Hemianopia:**

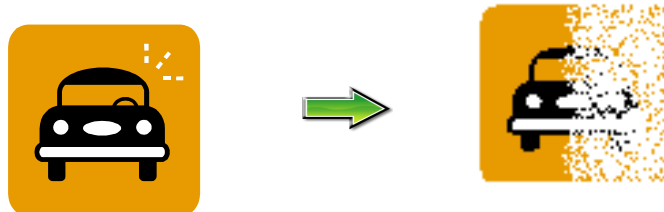
This is when the damage affects both eyes to the same side, i.e. in a Right Homonymous Hemianopia, the right eye would get a field defect to the right and the left eye would also get a field defect to the right. This would mean that the patient would not be seeing anything to the right hand side.

This visual field loss to one side can be a total or partial loss.

Total vision loss would mean that nothing is seen to the affected side:



Partial vision loss would mean that vision is reduced to one side:



### **Problems a Homonymous Hemianopia could cause:**

- Misplacing or ignoring objects to one side
- Problems reading as words at the beginning or the end of a line may not be present
- Bumping into things and more clumsiness to one side

### **How do we assess a Field Defect?**

The Orthoptist will plot a visual field using a Goldmann Field machine.



This plots what the patient sees in the periphery and will show the Orthoptist if

the patient has a Homonymous Hemianopia.

### **How can the Orthoptist help?**

As the field defect is to one side, a stick on prism (Fresnel) can be used to try and bring the seeing area to a more central position so that the patient has a wider field of vision.

The Orthoptist can also offer general advice to make it a little easier to cope.

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